

UIC National Conference Call Notes

Region 9 Hosted

On September 19, 2012, Region 9 hosted the monthly UIC national conference call. All 10 regions participated as well as OGWDW. This represents a summary of the key items discussed on the call.

UIC Inspector Training – by Karen Johnson/Steve Platt (R3): Karen and Steve asked how many EPA personnel would need to take the UIC Inspector Training Class in 2013. Based on a polling of the Regions and HQs, it appears there are only about 6-10 people who would need the training this year. Given the low number, it was tentatively decided that there would be no training scheduled for March (the typical timeframe), and that Region 3 would re-visit the question later in the year to see if there are more potential attendees.

UIC Database Completion Initiative - by Michael Plastino (HQ): Michael reported out that there were only 6 states remaining to submit inventory information, out of the 25 identified. Cadmus will be assisting HQs with the physical data mapping. Trang will ask the Regions to help coordinate with the states to validate the mapping (may need corrections/clarifications), then ask states to submit data officially via CDX. Effort will start with 4 states – Nebraska 1422, Wyoming 1425, Mississippi 1425, and Indiana 1425. Notify Trang if regions have preference for order of state data mapping.

Ohio's Emergency Rules for UIC – by Region 5/Region 3: Region 3 asked for information about Ohio's emergency rules because State of Pennsylvania was asking Region 3 about Ohio's provisions. Ohio developed rules to minimize seismic risk in the aftermath of the Youngstown events; Ohio's rules went into effect in July 2012. Region 5 will send a link for Ohio's rules (and here it is from Ross Micham - <http://www.ohiodnr.com/tabid/24038/Default.aspx>)

Aquifer Exemption Policy Initiative – by Ron Bergman (HQ): Agency workgroup is working on key aquifer exemption policy questions, some Sr. Mgrs starting to engage. HQs is also reaching out to stakeholders, including planned discussion at GWPC roundtable meeting. Ron mentioned possibility of some resources to assist regions with file review/identification of exempt aquifers.

(Another) ProPublica FOIA Request – by Keara Moore (HQ): Keara followed up on her email regarding the latest ProPublica FOIA request. Regarding information requested about the number of inspectors, HQs believes they have what they need from the regions, but they will check in with OECA. Regarding seismicity information, there is a December 18th deadline, and Keara will be setting up a discussion soon. Keara also noted that an article was expected soon from Mr. Lustgarten (and here it is - <http://www.propublica.org/article/trillion-gallon-loophole-lax-rules-for-drillers-that-inject-pollutants>)

NRDC FOIA – by Becky Harvey (R5): Becky described a FOIA request and other interest Region 5 is getting about Ohio's program, and asked if HQs had any input for the region. HQs will get back to Region 5.

Quick Regional/HQs Round table –

Region 1: VT banned hydro-fracking and CT is asking the region if they should also ban the practice, since they already banned Class II activities. It was pointed out that fracking can be used for purposes besides oil and gas development.

Region 2: pass

Region 3: Reported on a consent agreement that requires Swamp Angel Energy to plug an illegal brine disposal well.

Region 4: pass

Region 5: Inquired about possible hydro-fracking inspector training; DRAs of regions 2, 3, and 5 discussed sharing expertise/training.

Region 6: Described ongoing situation with the Bayou Corne sinkhole.

Region 7: Hosting UIC Permitting Geek Toolbox training; thanks to region 6 for sending trainers!

Region 8: pass

Region 9: pass

Region 10: pass

Headquarters: Jeff Jollie reported that the STRONGER state review process is being re-energized. Noted importance of not endorsing programs and need for communication/cooperation.

Next call: Region 10 hosts; invite sent out for October 17 at the usual time.